

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 57 without my signature.

The levels of court-ordered fines and fees have increased dramatically in recent years as many individual programs seek ways to increase their funding. However, the total amount of dollars collected or available for collection has not increased accordingly. The effect is that the addition of new fines and fees tends to reduce the imposition and collection of existing penalties, which are passed out on a prorated basis to the various funds. The Victim Compensation Program receives a significant portion of its funding from restitution fines.

While programs seeking new or additional funding in this manner might in fact be deserving or worthwhile, it is simply not possible to continue adding new recipients to the existing program distribution without reducing funding to current deserving recipients. Local EMS funds currently receive funds from penalty assessments. In recognition of the need for funding, my 2005-2006 budget contains another \$10 million dollars in General Fund for trauma centers. However, I cannot approve further attachment of this source of funding at the expense of victims and others who are likely to lose precious funding from this source if SB 57 were to become law.

For these reasons I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger